Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, as on 14.08.2001, was 1 and 19 respectively.

Government have addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them, *inter-alia,* to locate suitable women candidates from the Bar for appointment as High Court Judges.

Collapse of civil and criminal Justice System

2960. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a total collapse in civil and criminal justice system and the conviction rate is hardly 7 per cent whereas 93 per cent of those charged with various crimes go scot-free;

(b) whether Government have studied and analysed the reasons for collapse in justice which encouraged crime becoming a low risk job;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure speedy conviction of criminals and justice to aggrieved parties;

(d) whether any comprehensive judicial reforms are under consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

As per information made available by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the average conviction rate of crimes under the Indian Penal Code from the year 1995 to 1999 has been 39.02%.

(b) The reasons for poor conviction rate, *inter alia,* can be attributed to the nature of the procedural laws, practices and procedures followed by criminal courts and the inadequacies of the investigating and prosecuting agencies.

(c) to (e) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/ tribunals, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute

resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

As regards Criminal Procedure Code, the Law Commission of India has comprehensively reviewed the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Government has sanctioned a scheme involving an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for creation of 1734 Fast Track Courts for expeditious disposal of long pending sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails, on priority. The scheme is in operation with effect from April, 2001.

Loopholes in law

†2961. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sufferers/victims do not get justice due to loopholes in laws;

(b) whether Government propose to make modifications in present Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps that Government should take to provide justice to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Procedural lacunae may be one of the reasons why the sufferers/victims do not get justice due to loopholes in laws. Some of the reasons for injustice, *inter alia,* can be attributed to the nature of the procedural laws, practices and procedures followed by criminal courts and the inadequacies of the investigating and prosecuting agencies.

(b) to (d) As regards amendment of Criminal Procedure Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th August, 1994 has, *inter alia,* the following proposals to provide for speedy disposal of cases:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.